

BIG SENSATION

Again in the Lexow Investigation in New York City.

SUPERINTENDENT BYRNES'S SHOCK

On Hearing Testimony Implicating Ex-Inspector Steers

IN THE CRIME OF EXACTING MONEY

As Bribes from Policemen—Counsel Goff Getting Very Near the Throne of Tammany Hall in His Probing Process—Astounding Evidence, and Breastworks that Have Hitherto Withstood Attacks May Yet Yield to the Assault—More Captains Who Received Regular "Blood" Money. Some Interesting Testimony.

New York, Dec. 18.—Police Sergeant John J. Taylor, of the steamboat squad, testified before the Lexow committee to-day, that Inspector Henry V. Steers has systematically exacted monies from policemen who were paid for extra work by steamship and railroad companies. Other witnesses swore that Captain Max F. Schmittberger, Anthony Allaire and George Gastlin had been guilty of similar offenses. A futile effort was made by Counsel Goff to elicit from John Reppenhagen additional facts of importance concerning the payment by Captain Creedon of \$15,000 for his captaincy.

It was expected that Mr. Goff's ordinance of exposure would be directed toward breastworks that have hitherto withstood all assaults, and that the startling sensation of Friday would be rendered trivial beside to-day's events, and though the testimony adduced did not point the finger of wrong-doing to an inspector of police whose official reputation was hitherto regarded as immaculate, the popular appetite for sensational developments has not been appeased.

Still, in official circles, the news of to-day's exposures has brought amazement unbounded. Superintendent Byrnes, when told of Sergeant Taylor's testimony against ex-inspector Steers, manifested great astonishment. "I am amazed, astounded," was his only comment, and no argument could induce him to pronounce an opinion. Inspectors Williams and Conlin evinced similar feelings. Sergeant John Harley said: "I have and do now consider Inspector Steers a man of unblemished character, and I cannot believe he has ever accepted any bribe money." And so many officials of the police department expressed themselves.

Steers was for many years captain of the city hall squad. He was made inspector when Superintendent Murray took charge of the department and retired two years ago. At that time he was chief inspector in command of the detective force. His pension of \$2,500 per annum goes with the now defunct rank of chief inspector. He is a conspicuous and popular member of the Washington Heights Methodist church. The sensational evidence against Steers was not brought forward until late in the afternoon, Counsel Goff having paved the way with a number of witnesses, who swore that steamship and railroad companies had paid tribute to the police for guarding their property. One after another a stream of policemen swore to this fact, and then the big sensation of the session was sprung as a fitting climax to the day's proceedings.

THE DETAILS

Of the Evidence—Some Startling Evidence Brought Out.

New York, Dec. 18.—When the Lexow investigating committee began its work to-day there were present in the court room Police Captains Cross, Allaire and Creedon, all in full uniform. Father McDonald, of Brooklyn, was an interested spectator. In opening, Senator Lexow said he had been officially informed that the suspension of Captain Creedon by the police board had been revoked. Mr. Goff remarked that in his mind there was some doubt as to whether or not it is an indictable offense for anybody, even the police board, to bring an action against a person who has given evidence before the committee. The fact that they had given testimony guaranteed them immunity. "A person who does testify against himself," continued Mr. Goff, "is absolutely exempt from any indictment and from prosecution based on that testimony. You cannot force a man to give testimony against himself. In this case it is a question if the board of police commissioners has not violated the law in taking action against Captain Creedon."

"Did they not know they violated the law when they took such action?" asked Senator O'Connor.

"No, I suppose not."

"There are two lawyers on the board, I believe?" observed Senator Bradley.

"Are they not supposed to know the law?"

"Not necessarily," answered Mr. Goff.

John W. Reppenhagen, the man who handled Captain Creedon's \$15,000 was a witness.

"Did you see Martin on the night of the day of Capt. Creedon's appointment?" asked Mr. Goff.

"Yes."

"And what arrangements had been made about paying the money to Martin?"

"It was simply to be paid to him."

Witness reiterated his testimony of Friday to the effect that Snell gave him a check for \$15,000, and that Martin knew he had the check. Then he deposited the check and afterward drew it out on January 16, 1892.

this \$5,000 paid to you as a bribe for your influence in the matter?"

"Well, I guess it was."

"Where was the money paid to Martin?"

"In the bank, just after I drew it out."

"And was anything said about any part of this money being paid to a third party?"

"No."

Reppenhagen then went on to state that the \$5,000 which had been paid to him he used in paying pressing debts.

"Who is Con Sheehan?"

"A policeman."

"And why did you loan Sheehan \$250?"

"Because he asked me for it."

"Is it not a custom for the saloon keepers in your vicinity to give small loans to the police?"

"Oh, yes; \$5 or \$10 at a time."

"And as a result the police are not so strict about the enforcement of the excise law, are they?"

"No, they are not."

"And do you ever get these small loans back?"

"Sometimes we do; not often, though."

"Is it not a fact that the saloon keepers in your neighborhood are assessed to make a Christmas present for the captain?"

"Yes, it is; every year."

The witness said he had been assessed only once, and then for Captain Cassidy, since dead. This was in 1891.

"But Cassidy was dead at that time, and McLaughlin was there."

"I believe he was," the witness admitted. Mr. Goff then showed from December 1, 1891, to February 1, 1892, Reppenhagen had paid out an aggregate of \$560 in loans to policemen, and used \$492 in paying old debts. The witness stated that the police paid back some of the loans.

Reppenhagen said he was a member of the executive committee of the Voorhis Democracy at the time Commissioner Voorhis was its head. The question of patronage often came up at their sessions.

"And Commissioner Voorhis contributed the lion's share of it?"

"Yes."

"Was it generally understood that Voorhis could be reached only through Martin?"

"Yes; that was the reason I saw Martin about the Creedon matter."

Mr. Goff then led the witness into an acknowledgment that he had kept a gambling machine in his place after it was forbidden, but that the police made no objection.

Policeman O'Neil was then called to the stand. Sergeant Taylor and Captain Allaire were also called and sworn, and requested to leave the room while O'Neil testified.

The witness was then told that no action could be brought against him for his testimony and was warned of the danger of perjuring himself.

The witness said that he is now a member of the steamboat squad, having been assigned to that service in 1882, when Captain Cassidy was in command.

"While you were on the steamboat squad did you ever receive any money from the White Star line?"

"Yes."

"How much?"

"Ten dollars a week and my meals."

"Out of the \$10 per week did you have to pay anything?"

"Yes, \$25 a month to Wardman Michael Gannon."

"Who was this money for?"

"The captain."

"What captain was in charge at that time?"

"Captain Schmittberger."

Witness said farther than when Captain Allaire was given charge of the precinct, he continued to pay the \$25 per month but that the first money he ever paid out of this extra compensation was to Captain Schmittberger.

Officer Beck, another member of the steamboat squad, testified that some time ago he paid Sergeant Taylor of the same squad \$10 which he had received for extra work for steamship company.

"Did you have to pay any money out of your salary?"

"Yes."

"How much?"

"Ten dollars a month."

"How much did you get?"

"Only \$100."

Witness said that Warden Ball had asked him whether he received any extra money. When he replied affirmatively Ball said he wanted it all for Captain Schmittberger. Then witness had turned the money over every month.

Policeman Herman Interman followed. He testified that he had been on the American Company's pier and received \$10 per week but did not have to pay any money to Captain Schmittberger or to any other captain.

"Do you know that all the dock policemen had to pay some of this money to the captain?"

"No, I do not."

Interman testified that he owned a home in the annexed district, valued at \$4,500 and that he had a small account at the Manhattan Savings Bank.

"How much is this small balance?"

"Twelve dollars."

"Have you any other bank account?"

"Yes; a small one in the East River Bank."

"How much is that balance?"

"I don't know; but it was not much."

ger \$500. After investigation it was found that this was so."

"Well, was any officer made to pay this back?"

"Yes, he came to me and told me if we would accept it he would pay back the \$500 and something in addition in order to have the company refuse to turn their books over to the committee. When he said 'money' to me, I told him to go on, that I would have nothing further to do with him."

"What was the sum mentioned in this connection?"

"I do not know, but have heard that it was \$1,000 in addition to the \$500."

Ex-Wardman Ball, who served under Captain Gastlin, was the next witness.

"I believe you will not deny that you collected the money from these officers?"

"No."

"Who did you give it to?"

"To Captain Gastlin."

"And did you ever collect any for Captain Schmittberger?"

"Yes, I was under Schmittberger for only two months."

Witness then said that when Captain Schmittberger first assumed charge of the steamboat squad, he wanted men to turn all extra money over to him. Some of them agreed to this, but others objected.

"What money did you ever collect for Schmittberger?"

"I collected \$50 from Agent Townsend of the Pennsylvania line, for the captain. I also went to Hoboken once and got some money from one of the ferry lines there."

"How much did you get?"

"\$50."

"Well, now, for instance, how much did you collect for Captain Schmittberger during the first month he was in the squad?"

"\$210."

"And that was the regular monthly collection?"

"Yes."

Sergeant Taylor, another collector for the captains of the steamboat squad, was called to the stand. He had been on the police force for thirty years and was a sergeant twenty-five years of that time. He went to the steamboat squad in 1881 or 1882.

"I believe immediately after Schmittberger's removal you were acting captain for several months."

"Yes."

"Well, while you were in charge did any of the officers pay you any money whatever?"

"Yes."

"Who was it?"

"Peter Moran (who testified this morning) paid me at one time \$10, but I don't remember any other."

"Well, Sergeant, how much did you collect during Schmittberger's captaincy?"

"About \$200."

"What did you do with this \$200?"

"I paid the most of it to Inspector Steers at headquarters."

A buzz went around the court room at this answer, and everybody suddenly became attentive.

"What became of the other portion?"

"I kept it."

"And how often did you go there, to headquarters, I mean?"

"Every month."

"And why did you pay to him?"

"Because he ordered me to do so."

"How much did you pay to Inspector Steers. What per cent?"

"Eighty per cent."

"And you kept twenty per cent?"

"Yes."

"After Schmittberger left there and you took charge, did you continue to divide with Steers?"

"Yes."

"When Capt. Allaire took charge what did you do with the money you collected?"

"Well, I put it in an envelope and laid it on the desk in the station house and never saw it any more. I wrote on the envelope 'Street Cleaning Department' and left it on the sergeant's desk."

"Did you continue to put the envelopes on the desk after McAvary came in?"

"Yes."

"Well, to whom were you responsible for the collection of this money?"

"I don't know; I merely continued as I had been doing."

"Honest?" John Martin to whom Reppenhagen gave the \$10,000 to secure the appointment of Captain Creedon, was next called.

A physician testified that Martin was seriously ill; that he could not move without assistance and that his affliction was paralysis of the left side. The doctor was indignant over his summons to appear before the committee. He had an engagement elsewhere, he said. After some discussion, Mr. Goff selected Dr. Ward, of Governor's hospital to assist in an examination of Martin and report to the committee.

Samuel Rothbuck, who was then called, and swore that Alderman Benjamin had given him \$2 and a pastor and told him to vote it. Rothbuck took the money, but did not vote the pastor. The witness then went on to state that he returned to Benjamin's store and the alderman gave him another \$2 and a pastor and again told him to vote it. He did not do so, but an hour later he returned for a third time, got another \$2 and a pastor and finally voted the straight Republican ticket.

When the fact was developed, Mr. Goff stated that in his opinion the matter should be brought to the attention of the district attorney. Chairman Lexow ordered that this be done.

AN IMPERIAL DECREE

Orders the Arrest of Chinese Officials Responsible for the Fall of Port Arthur.

SHANGHAI, Dec. 18.—An imperial decree has been issued ordering Li Hung Chang to arrest Kung, the Taotai of Port Arthur, and the four Chinese generals who were in command at Port Arthur, and to send them to Peking for trial and punishment for the loss of that important dock yard and fortress.

Admiral Ting, who, by the way, was in command at the disastrous naval engagement of the Yalu river, has been arrested for failing to defend the dock yard of Port Arthur against the Japanese forces.

The Chinese government has heard of the Japanese excesses at Port Arthur and a strict inquiry is now proceeding. Some of the Japanese officers are now being tried by court martial for not restraining their men after the capture of Port Arthur.

Most of the foreign correspondents declare that the excesses were excusable by parallel cases, which have occurred in the best European armies.

STERLING SILVER Soup and Bullion Spoons at I. G. DILLON & Co's.

ADJOURN SINE DIE.

The Federation of Labor Convention Completes its Work.

A GENERAL LOVE FEAST WINDS UP

The Session—Leaders of Opposing Factions Make Open Statements of What They Think of Each Other and Then Shake Hands—President Gompers Receives a Compliment From the Miners' Delegates—Important Actions Taken Before the Adjournment.

DENVER, COLO., Dec. 18.—The great labor convention was in a melting mood when it adjourned Sine Die at 6 o'clock to-night. A few moments before adjournment one of the strongest leaders, P. J. McGuire, of Philadelphia, and Thomas J. Morgan, of Chicago, who have for five or six years enlivened each recurring convention with a feud that seemed to grow stronger every year, told the convention what they thought of each other, and then shook hands and decided to be friends, amid applause of the assembled delegates. The closing hour was devoted to telling personal experiences. President Gompers took part in this recitation of grievances.

The most important feature of the day's work was the adoption of resolutions on the Debs matter, and these were of a character that was fully anticipated. All attempts to resurrect the political questions were promptly suppressed.

Attendance was not by any means full, many delegates having left for home last night. The balance will go to-morrow. President Gompers returns east by way of Chicago. The new officers take their positions on January 1, and in the meantime the removal of headquarters from New York to Indianapolis will be made. Treasurer Lennen will remain a resident of New York city.

The committee on resolutions reported favorably on a resolution from the cigarmakers' union, opposing compulsory arbitration, and it was concurred in without discussion.

The committee reported adversely on the resolutions presented by the clothing workers of Boston, favoring the "political platform" over which so much discussion was had last week.

The whole matter was tabled without discussion.

The committee reported without recommendation the plan to abolish the sweating system, outlined in a bill prepared by Mr. John Franny, assistant factory inspector of New York. Mr. Cohen, of the committee, explained that some of the committee opposed the bill, which proposed to tax sweatshops out of existence. Other members held different views, and rather than make two reports they made none.

The president, Mr. Gompers, offered a substitute referring the matter to the executive council. It was adopted.

When a resolution of Mr. Weiman, of the Bakers' union, regarding the trouble between his organization and the Central Labor Federation of New York was reported Delegate Morgan interjected some caustic personalities to which President Gompers and others responded.

John P. O'Sullivan, of Boston, for example referring to Mr. Morgan as a "contemptible whelp," and protesting against what Mr. O'Sullivan called Mr. Morgan's "scurrilous attacks upon members of the convention."

"That comes from cultured Boston," was the response of Mr. Morgan, who is from Chicago.

The president stated that the Central Labor Federation had been refused a charter from the American Federation of Labor because it was a political party. It had since been fighting the federation. After further heated discussion, the resolution was adopted.

Chairman Hysell, of the special committee on the Debs decision, made its report, which was unanimously agreed to. The report demands the immediate enactment of a law setting a limit beyond which equity courts may not go, and orders financial aid in securing legal counsel and advice looking to appealing of the cases to the supreme court of the United States.

Chairman Bramwood, of the committee on the Phillips bill, providing a commission to consider labor laws, reported favorably during the day. Mr. Pomeroy submitted a minority report, opposing the bill because it provides for an intermediary between the people and their servants in Congress, and advocating the referendum in its place. The majority report was adopted.

Mr. Gompers was called from the hall and during his absence the United Mine Workers of America presented resolutions, which were unanimously adopted with much applause, reciting in the most complimentary terms the good work of the retiring President Gompers.

At the afternoon session the committee on laws reported on a large number of resolutions and amendments to the laws of the organization. The more important was on providing that in future conventions the reports of grievance committees shall be made in executive session, which was adopted.

Mr. Ponna made a speech in which he made a bitter attack upon the officers of the Knights of Labor.

He mentioned the names of Sovereign, Bishop and Hays, saying: "I favor harmony between labor organizations, but I charge that the committee libels true union labor organizations, when it class es such men among it. I do not refer to the Knights of Labor as a whole, for a majority of the members are in open revolt against their officers."

The question of endorsing the United Brewers' label brought more condemnation of the Knights of Labor, the brewers being composed of subordinate bodies, part of whom belong to the Federation and part to the Knights.

The convention decided to refuse to endorse the label so long as the brewers remain affiliated with the knights.

The question of endorsing the shoe workers' joint label was in much the same status. The organizations include a Knight of Labor assembly, but it was stated that it was about ready to come into the Federation. The label was endorsed, but the executive council was empowered to withdraw it if thought proper.

P. J. McGuire took the floor to make some denials of charges against him in the press attributed to Thomas J. Morgan.

gan. The latter responded and for a time there was a hot exchange of words. Then Gompers related his grievances against Morgan, but finally, on the proposition of Mr. McGuire, old differences were thrown aside and the old comrades agreed to stand together against the common enemy—capital.

DEBS WILL SERVE TIME.

The Cases of Himself and Associates Will Not be Appealed.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—Eugene V. Debs, president of the American Railway Union, and his colleagues have decided to take the penalty imposed by Judge Woods without appeal. They will go to the Cook county jail next Monday.

The officials reached this decision to-day without the advice of their attorneys, and their decision is positive.

Debs says an appeal would be probably of no avail. The worry and expense were also considerations.

A SENSATIONAL CASE

Ended After a Costly Trial—Dr. Fraker's Heirs Beat the Insurance Companies.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 18.—After three weeks consumed in its trial and one day's argument, the jury to-day in twenty-one minutes after receiving its instructions returned a verdict in the famous Dr. Fraker insurance case. It was in favor of the relatives of Fraker, who sued five companies who held policies on the doctor's life when he was drowned at Excelsior Springs, Mo., July 10, 1893. The policies aggregated \$41,655, and the plaintiffs have been granted judgment for the full amount.

The case has been one of peculiar interest and has been desperately fought by both sides. The trial has been very costly to the defense.

Dr. H. C. Fraker was a physician with a moderate practice.

At Excelsior Springs, Mo., July 10, 1893, while on a fishing trip in Missouri, he slipped from the bank and was drowned. Not the least trace of him could be found, and his complete disappearance being so exceptional, several of the insurance companies refused to pay the policies held on him.

It was asserted it was a conspiracy to defraud and that the doctor swam the river and escaped in the garb of a woman. To strengthen this theory, the defense introduced testimony to show the doctor changed his sex every seven years and had awaited such a transition to practice the deception.

Anarchy in Jamaica.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—A special cable to the World, from Kingston, Jamaica, says:

Troops have gone to Belise, British Honduras, to suppress riots resulting in the imposition of English currency on the inhabitants. The spheroid brought an appeal for aid. A state of anarchy prevails, and there has been some bloodshed.

A SALE THAT FAILED.

Tax Collector Blackwell, of Kentucky, Unwilling to Face a Mob.

MORGANFIELD, Ky., Dec. 18.—Tax Collector Blackwell and his son arrived here at 8 o'clock this morning. As it had been said that Blackwell would hold a special sale, people from all over the tax district began to pour into town early. When a special train bearing 1,000 of the late tax-payers arrived, Blackwell evidently became alarmed, and he and John Feland, attorney for the bondholders, hurried to the depot and boarded the train for Uniontown, much to the disappointment of the people. The sale, therefore, did not come off.

Blackwell has advertised a sale of personal property and land to recover taxes due the railroad for January 7, and it is supposed that there will be trouble if he attempts to hold the sale.

Involves Millions.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Dec. 18.—The case of the Central Transportation Company against the Pullman Palace Car Company, which has been in litigation for nine years, was decided in favor of the Transportation Company this afternoon in the United States circuit court. The case involved several million of dollars. A master was appointed by Judge Dallas and he will report in sixty days.

BRIEFS FROM THE WIRES.

The national house of representatives will adjourn Saturday until Thursday, June 3.

Senator Lodge introduced a bill yesterday into the United States senate to bring the consular service into the classified service.

The gold reserve in the treasury was further reduced yesterday by the withdrawal at New York of \$1,800,000, which leaves the amount of the reserve at the close of business \$91,554,909.

John E. Bielby, the trusted cashier of the Rome, N. Y., Central National Bank is short \$27,000. He speculated and lost, took bank money to make it good, lost again and the natural result followed.

A reward of \$2,000 is offered for the murderer of Mrs. Winslow Shearman and daughter Cynthia, of Jamestown, N. Y. When last seen the unknown murderer wore a long ulster and walked on feet 11½ inches long. This last item is most important, for the tracks found in the rear of the Shearman house are of those dimensions.

It has been developed that Henry Reech, one of the men murdered by tramps in a box car near Fostoria, Ohio, a few days ago, was a detective employed by the National Detective Bureau of Indianapolis. He had been detained on a special case, had adopted the disguise of a tramp, and was recognized by the crooks in the car.

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Glasgow—Steamer Norwegian, New York.

Liverpool—Steamer Javonia and Sachem, Boston.

St. Johns, N. F.—Steamer Carthagenian, Glasgow and Liverpool, for Halifax and Philadelphia.